

**Frontier RDOF Kicker CASF Broadband Infrastructure Grant Application – Cazadero
Item #6 - Project Summary**

Applicant: Frontier California Inc. (U-1002-C)

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Project Title: Cazadero

Project Location: Sonoma County

Funding Request: CASF Funding: \$1,814,000
Level 2 Kicker Funding: \$ \$852,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

Frontier California Inc. (U-1002-C) (Frontier) is applying for a Level 2 Grant from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Kicker Program to deploy last mile fiber to the home (FTTH) facilities that will provide High Speed Internet (HSI) to 140 unserved households in the region of Cazadero within Sonoma County. Frontier refers to this proposal as the Cazadero Project (Project). The Project would allow service to last-mile customers with minimum symmetrical speeds of 50 Mbps and maximum symmetrical speeds of up to 1 Gbps using fiber optic technology. Service will also be made available through Frontier’s low-income broadband programs described in more detail below. Frontier is requesting that the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) grant \$1,814,000 from the CASF fund and Level 2 kicker funding in the amount of \$852,000 for this project.

DESCRIPTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE BEING DEPLOYED (Miles of planned fiber, Central Offices used, remote terminals / fiber huts / wireless towers to be built, and if an IRU is used):

This project will place 87,862 buried feet and 121,483 aerial feet of 144 fiber optic cable for FTTH in the Cazadero Wire Center. This fiber build is 100% last mile. Four FDH and 1 CO OLT will be placed at the Central Office.

ESTIMATED BREAKDOWN OF AERIAL AND UNDERGROUND INSTALLATION:

It is estimated that this project will be approximately 58% aerial and 42% underground installation.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED BROADBAND PROJECT PLAN FOR WHICH CASF FUNDING IS BEING REQUESTED, INCLUDING THE TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY TO BE PROVIDED IN THE PROPOSED SERVICE AREAS - the project description will provide enough construction detail to enable a preliminary indication of the need for a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and if proposed project areas contains any environmentally sensitive areas (i.e. when trenching is required, the applicant will state and describe the manner in which the site is to be restored, post-trenching).

Frontier will leverage all existing infrastructure within the Right of Way, including existing poles, underground system, and where Frontier currently has direct buried copper cables. There may be sections where boring and trenching is necessary when Frontier cannot leverage third party existing infrastructure. Frontier will restore, trench and bore locations back to its original state after construction is completed. Frontier does not anticipate that CEQA review will be needed for the FTTH build.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE LEVERAGING OF EXISTING AVAILABLE FACILITIES (i.e. interconnection in lieu of overbuilding existing facilities of another provider):

Frontier will connect existing middle-mile facilities where applicable, such as main router, Packet Optical, and router locations. This application is FTTH, and therefore, Frontier cannot leverage existing copper networks as they are two different technologies.

INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECTS TO SERVE NEARBY CASF-ONLY ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS:

The nearby CASF-only eligible households will be upgraded to enable internet speeds up to 1G/1G. These households are in and adjoining unserved areas. CASF funding based on the rural community’s critical broadband needs, including their educational and economic digital divide. This project also provides safety benefits to the community including, but not limited to, robust bandwidth in the event of wildfire, winter storms and earthquakes as well as improved access to e-health services.

FUNDING

To receive a Level 2 award, a project must qualify to receive Level 1 support and satisfy additional Level 2 criteria. Projects receiving Level 2 awards will be provided up to an additional 10% of the RDOF reserve price in kicker funding for eligible census blocks, yielding a total of up to 20% kicker funding for the Level 1 and Level 2 awards combined. Frontier maintains that this project qualifies under Level 2 eligibility requirements:

- Level 2 eligibility requirements:
 - ✓ Qualification for Level 1 support
- Level 2 Provider Participation Requirements:
 - ✓ Level 1 Participation Requirements
 - ✓ Provision of low-income or affordable broadband plans for low-income consumers served by RDOF-funded infrastructure, for the 10-year duration of RDOF funding*
 - ✓ One or both of the following:
 - Offering Indefeasible Rights of Use at no cost for fibers for California Tribes located within 40-miles of RDOF funded last-mile or middle-mile routes
 - Designation as a Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) in the service provider’s RDOF-funded areas

* *Low-Income Plans:* Frontier features a choice of two low-income programs for customers: Frontier Fundamental and Frontier Affordable Broadband. The Frontier Affordable Broadband product requires that customers enrolled in Lifeline telephone service. Alternatively, the Frontier Fundamental product is a stand-alone low-income broadband program that does not require a customer to purchase telephone service. Both products will provide minimum symmetrical speeds of 50 Mbps in fiber areas.

Number of Locations by Census Block

Census Block	Adjacent	Kicker	Grand Total
60971537041019		1	1
60971537041020		2	2
60971543041277		9	9

Census Block	Adjacent	Kicker	Grand Total
60971543041280		7	7
60971543041283	1		1
60971543041284		3	3
60971543041293		4	4
60971543041303	13		13
60971543041309	7		7
60971543041327		1	1
60971543041346	2		2
60971543041347		1	1
60971543041352	1		1
60971543041353	6		6
60971543041359	1		1
60971543042012	1		1
60971543042015		1	1
60971543042017	1		1
60971543042018		7	7
60971543042019		1	1
60971543042046		35	35
60971543042048		21	21
60971543042054	3		3
60971543042060	1		1
60971543042062		7	7
60971543042063	3		3
Grand Total	52	88	140

Cazadero Area Map

